

Eliza Conrad  
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SB 966  
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Hello, my name is Eliza Conrad and I am a sophomore honors political science and business management student at the University of Connecticut. During my two years at Uconn, I have become painfully aware of the prevalence of sexual assault on my campus and other campuses across the state. While much progress has been in changing the negative culture on campus surrounding sexual violence, one of the main fears that students, like myself, have after potentially being assaulted is how we will be treated medically. The process that is currently in place to see a SAFE is traumatizing. A victim must not only be treated at the UConn infirmary, but also agree to be transported by ambulance to Windham hospital before being in the care of a SAFE. For many individuals, this extensive and bureaucratic process is a deterrent from seeking medical treatment. No woman should shy away from medical treatment after being sexually abused because of the overwhelming process she must go through in order to be seen by a SAFE. Given the high populations of college campuses in Connecticut and the rates of sexual violence that are concentrated in these areas, the health care facilities run by these institutions of higher education should be a part of the designated locations that a SAFE can administer treatment. I ask you to think of your sisters, your daughters, and friends. If she were to be sexually assaulted, would you ask her to leave a place where she feels safe and supported for the best treatment? Would you ask her to take an ambulance to a nearby hospital to go through the admittance process for a second time before getting the care she needs? I ask you to support House Bill No. 966 for all of the women who live on these college campuses. We deserve to be treated in a comfortable and safe environment on campus, in a health care facility operated by our universities. Thank you for your time and I hope that you support this bill.